

satisfactory circumstance, and, in some instances, of the greatest possible consequence. I have never found anything necessary but the regular inflation of the lungs, which I do with my own mouth in the way I have described, and have generally observed the first symptom of returning life to be a tremulous motion of the respiratory organs; the child next makes a feeble attempt to inspire, and the colour of the face changes. The inflation should then be made quicker, and as the attempts to breathe increase, sal volatile, or brandy, rubbed over the palm of the hand, and held over the mouth during the inflation of air, will materially assist the recovery, and has a better effect than pouring stimulants into the stomach. A few smart slaps on the gluteal muscles will now generally complete the recovery.

"It has always been my practice to expire as completely, and immediately to inhale as much air as possible, and this should be repeated frequently during the process of inflating the lungs."

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

57. *The Blood is not always black in Asphyxia by Charcoal.*—The black colour of the blood is generally pointed out as one of the most constant characteristic phenomena of asphyxia from charcoal. It would appear, however, from the researches of M. OLIVIER, that instead of being black, the blood which flows from the vessels in cases of asphyxia produced by charcoal, is sometimes red. This physician, in making a judicial examination in 1837, of a number of bodies of individuals asphyxiated by charcoal, found, the blood red in five cases. What M. Olivier has seen in the dead body, M. MARVE has observed during life in several subjects incompletely asphyxiated by charcoal. In one case, the phenomena of asphyxia had existed several hours, and were so intense that there was imminent danger of death. In this state, a vein was opened in the arm, and the blood which flowed was manifestly red, and promptly coagulated. In a second subject, in the highest degree of asphyxia, the blood which was drawn from the arm was equally red. In a third case of asphyxia, of brief duration, the blood was red and promptly coagulated. Finally, in two others, where the asphyxia had reached its last stage, for one of the individuals died two hours after having been bled, the blood which flowed from the vein was red, and coagulated promptly.

These facts show that, in post-mortem examinations, a red colour of the blood should not be considered as demonstrating the impossibility of death having been occasioned by asphyxia from charcoal.—*Bulletin Gén. de Thérap.* August, 1838.

58. *Poisoning by Arsenious acid cured by Tritoxide of Iron.*—An example of this is recorded by JOHN MURRAY, M. D., in our esteemed cotemporary the *Quarterly Journal of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Society*, (Dec. 1837.) The subject of the case was an hospital apprentice, ætat. 22, who swallowed, with the intention of committing suicide, about fifteen grains of white arsenic, at nine A. M. of the 19th May, 1837. At ten o'clock, vomiting and purging came on. When seen by Dr. Murray at eleven o'clock, he was much depressed, pulse 100, weak. Three grains of tart. antim. were given, which caused free vomiting; he was bled 16 ounces; and repeated mucilaginous draughts given, until some of the tritoxide of iron was prepared.

One, P. M. Acute pain in epigastrium, extending over abdomen; efforts to vomit; tenesmus. Half an ounce of the tritoxide of iron was given every hour, with mucilaginous drinks. At four, P. M., twenty leeches were placed to epigastrium, which relieved the pain in the epigastrium. A dose of oil was given at seven, P. M., and the tritoxide continued at longer intervals. Eleven, P. M., one copious stool; pain in abdomen, acute on pressure; slight cramps in

the legs, pulse 48; skin cold. The tritoxide to be given every hour; epigastrium was blistered by nitrate of silver, and an enema administered.

20th. Has slept a little; had one dark brown stool, no vomiting; pain in abdomen relieved; thirsty; pulse 80; tongue furred; skin warm. Ol. Ricin. ʒj. Effervescing draught p. r. n. The three following days he had several black stools; he gradually improved, and on the 24th May he returned to his duty.

59. *On the Poisonous effects of Rue, and on its Influence on the Uterus.*—"It would seem that the various means deemed capable of inducing abortion are not equally made use of in all countries alike; each country appearing to follow some particular practice in preference to any other. In Paris the puncture of the membranes is generally resorted to; and it is truly disgraceful to think that not only many midwives, but even some medical men, lend themselves to this flagitious practice. I lately saw a melancholy case of a young woman, who died of *metro-peritonitis* in the Hôtel Dieu of Paris, from a deep penetrating wound of the uterus, induced by the use of a trocar for the purpose of bringing on miscarriage.

"In other parts of France the use of rue and of savine leaves, in various preparations, is chiefly trusted to as provocatives of abortion. At present we shall confine our remarks to the former of these two plants.

"There has been much difference of opinion as to the medicinal effects of rue; some alleging that it exerts a direct and immediate action on the uterine system, while others contend that, whenever it seems to do so, this action is only secondary to, and consequent upon, an irritation of the intestinal canal and a disturbance of the nervous system; and hence that its use much oftener fails in provoking miscarriage than succeeds.

"To determine the question, Dr. HÉLIE, the author of the present observations, reports several cases. One of these is as follows:

"A young female, having suffered a great deal in her first accouchement, was resolved to try some means to bring on abortion in her second pregnancy. She applied to Dr. Hélié for the purpose, being about four months advanced; but he very properly declined giving her any advice, but that of dissuading her from her intentions. She told him, however, that, if he would not prescribe for her, she would apply to some other person. A fortnight afterwards, she returned to him; and then she was no longer pregnant. She mentioned to him that, by the advice of a woman, she had taken three fresh roots of rue, cut them in pieces, and then boiled them in a pound and a half of water down to three small cupfuls, which she drank one evening on going to bed. Dreadful pain in the stomach came on, accompanied with vomitings, and with such universal oppression, that she thought she was dying.

"This state continued all the night, and next day the symptoms were much abated. But now she began to experience colicky pains, slight at first, but gradually increasing in severity, and returning at intervals. On the evening of the second day, they became much more violent, and were evidently the pains of labour: abortion came on soon afterwards—in forty-eight hours after taking the decoction of rue."

"Case 2.—A young woman, residing in a farm-house, was suddenly seized with most severe vomiting, violent twisting pains in the abdomen and limbs, restlessness, and tendency to delirium. She had all the appearance of being intoxicated.

"Dr. Hélié suspected that the illness was the effect of medicines, which had been taken with the view of provoking abortion: the patient seemed to be in the seventh month of pregnancy, although she positively denied it.

"He therefore contented himself by withdrawing certain drinks which she had been using, and by confining her to simple barley-water.

"The vomitings speedily ceased; but the abdominal pains continued to increase, and in the course of the following day, she was delivered of two infants.

"Alarming symptoms of poisoning came on afterwards; but these for-